



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ing that from the clinical pictures and from the histories presented by the five cases of plague seen by me here on April 17 last, at the plague hospital at Jurajuba, those cases were all true cases of bubonic plague.

All cases of quarantinable disease are obliged to be reported to the director of public health as soon as possible after being diagnosed. Although this has been the law here for a number of years, as the fine for nonnotification was—until the passage of the recent health laws—so very small as to be of no importance it was a law more honored in the breach than in its observance. The recent health laws, a copy of which I recently sent your office, has changed all that. The fine is now so heavy that its nonobservance is hardly to be thought of, and it will be, as it already has been, enforced. Upon the notification being received at the office of the director of public health of the existence of a suspicious case of illness, inspectors are at once sent to the locality, one of the inspectors, sometimes more than one, being a physician.

If the case resemble bubonic plague, the person is at once isolated in his house or apartment, such isolation being really isolation and not a play at it, until further medical assurance is had of the real existence of plague in this case. Meantime by the aid of the Pasteur Institute, bacteriological examination of this case is made, and if it prove to be a case of plague the occupants of the house receive antiplague treatment, the antiplague serum used being a product of the Pasteur Institute and said to be of very excellent quality. The case being certainly diagnosed as plague, a full injection of serum treatment is given to the patient, this serum being also a product of the Pasteur Institute, and he is placed in the ambulance, and taken to the dock where the litter is placed on the hospital barge, which is then towed across the bay of Rio de Janeiro to Jurajuba, where he is then taken ashore and placed in the hospital.

I wish to place special emphasis on the fact that no one is removed to the plague hospital in whom diagnosis of plague has not been confirmed bacteriologically. This is most important, since the assertion has been made by enemies of the director of public health and the department that persons suffering from ordinary diseases, such as syphilitic and gonorrheal buboes, have been taken to the plague hospital and there contracted plague.

The hospital barge is a roomy houseboat, with a bed capacity for some eight or more patients, and being built upon a fairly good-sized hull accomplishes the journey, which is some eight miles, and rather rough in stormy weather, with as little discomfort as possible to the sick person or persons.

The Jurajuba plague hospital.

The hospital is situated across the bay from this city, and is a building which has been used for hospital purposes for very many years. Portions of it are very old, but it has been added to from time to time, so that from a rather small hospital building originally it has come to be a building which can, when pushed, accommodate with comfort over two hundred persons. The lower floors are for charity patients, while the second floor is divided partly into private wards and rooms, for which accommodation a very moderate fee is

charged, amounting in our money to less than one dollar and a quarter per diem for private room, nursing, medicines, etc.

The hospital itself is a quadrangle with the front missing, or the letter E with the middle part wanting. In front of the main building are offices and the dispensary. To the north, and on a slightly lower level, are the laundry, containing a very good-sized American laundry plant, complete, and the disinfecting machinery. This consists of a good-sized steam chamber, which I did not measure, but it can not be less than four feet in diameter. Everything in the way of bedding and clothing used by any patient is here disinfected and cleansed after his departure from the hospital. In this respect the disinfection is most thorough, I believe, and the plant fully capable of all demands which the hospital could make upon it.

The kitchens are in the rear of the hospital, and the connections between the hospital and these places are so arranged that the cooks and bakers do not stand any chance of contact with the sick or hospital attendants while handling food.

The largest number of patients that the hospital has ever had at one time was slightly in excess of 180. This was, so I was informed by the doctor who took me over the hospital, some years ago, and although so many plague patients were there at one time, there was no confusion or mismanagement, but, on the contrary, everything went on very smoothly.

The water supply is excellent in quality, coming from the mountain's, at the foot of which the hospital is placed, and is most abundant in quantity, a most important factor of course in the proper sanitary management of the hospital.

The sanitary arrangements, water-closets and baths, are of excellent make, and are more than necessary for the moderate number of patients which have lately been received, although not sufficient in number were the hospital filled with patients.

The treatment of patients—apart from such symptomatic treatment as exists in almost all diseases—is exclusively that of the use of serum. This has—and I saw the histories of many cases—been most efficacious. Indeed, the physician to whose courtesy I owe the pleasant treatment which I received during my visit, told me that, taking away from computation those cases arriving in a virtually moribund condition (and there are many such cases) and those who died during the first twenty-four hours after admission, the mortality of the remainder who received the serum treatment was only 13 per cent. This is certainly an excellent result, and speaks well both for the serum itself, as regards its quality, and for the methods of its employment.

Although not a matter of vital importance, I must state that the records of the hospital, as regards the patient's history previous to admission, the clinical histories of the patients while in the hospital, and, in fact, all the records of the hospital, are kept in a most methodical and precise way, so that any information desired in regard to any person at any time an inmate of this hospital can be found in a few moments.

The clinical histories of those sick with plague would form a first-rate basis for a study of this disease, and would repay well anyone desiring to make a study of plague and the use of serum in its treatment.

Speaking then, in a general way, the hospital is well arranged, well

cared for, and fully competent to meet the demands which have been made upon it since the outbreak of bubonic plague here. The treatment of those ill with the disease is also apparently most satisfactory. It is of course unnecessary to state that the hospital is used for the treatment of plague cases only. The corps of attendant physicians number 8, some one or two of whom are always at the hospital during the day hours. At night the care of the cases devolves upon certain medical students in their last-year course of medicine, several of whom live at the hospital and are at all hours upon duty. When visiting the patients in the hospital wards, the physicians and medical students and attendants wear, of course, linen gowns, which are washed out and disinfected after each visit.

During the year 1903 there were 624 certified cases of bubonic plague admitted to the hospital, which, by the way, is known variously by the name of the Jurajuba Hospital, or the Paulo Candido Hospital, or the Plague Hospital.

During this year up to the date of my visit there had been 61 admissions of certified cases.

Through the courtesy of the director of public health of this city I am enabled to furnish your office for the first time with the true figures of bubonic plague in this city during the years 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, and up to April 24 of the present year. The figures are most interesting and repay study.

The regularity of the increase of plague each year from the month of April to that of October, followed by as striking a decrease from November to March is, I imagine, more or less due to the cool weather prevailing here during the months of May, June, July, August, and September, and the crowding into miserable houses incident thereto. During the hot weather here the poorer people live and sleep much out of doors, and are therefore healthier and less liable to contract disease. That this regular increase and diminishing of plague was not so well marked during the year 1900 may be due to incomplete returns, or possibly to cooler weather coming here earlier in the year in 1900. For the other years, however, I think that the regularity with which the figures increase and diminish each month is worthy of attention.

It will be noted that the figures for the months of this present year are considerably in excess of the figures for the corresponding months of the other years. This in itself does not bear out my prediction of an early cessation of the bubonic plague here.

What I base my prediction on is, however, the increased sanitary vigilance which is now in force, this much exceeding that of any previous years in the history of the Republic.

In addition to the killing of rats which has been increasing since its inception last fall, the disinfection of all the surface-water sewers, which is being daily done throughout the city, will be productive of very excellent results. The thoroughness with which the disinfection of houses and premises where plague cases have occurred is being done, and the thorough inspection of all exposed to cases of plague, and the increase in the number of those who are allowing themselves to be recipients of the antipest serum treatment after exposure to plague, also the new regulations in regard to the bake shops here compelling these places to be so built that they can be absolutely flushed out with water and disinfecting solutions in case of need (the experience here

so far being that such places are especially apt to become foci of plague infection), all these increased sanitary measures, but above all, the thorough and painstaking manner in which the situation is being handled, will, I think and trust, speedily bring about the destruction of all foci of infection in this city and the consequent freedom of the city from the disease.

Before closing this sketch of the situation here, I find I have neglected to state that the very great majority of the cases of plague have occurred among the lower classes of the population, the percentage of foreigners—i. e., not true Brazilians—being about the same as of Portuguese suffering from the illness in question. There has been quite a number of cases of plague among the well-to-do classes, but the real percentage has been very low; I have been informed from a fairly reliable source as low as $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Still, even this low percentage shows that the disease is not confined to the lower classes, but that the seeds of plague have been widely spread throughout the population, and that it is owing only to the good, conscientious work of the city health departments that it has not become a true plague in every sense of the word.

I know of no case in which a ship leaving here for any foreign port has developed a case of plague on the outward journey, although I have heard of one case of a vessel leaving this city for New York with a crew every member of which was perfectly well the day of inspection here, having one case of suspicious sickness on the way up to New York. However, as the vessel in question passed the quarantine station in New York Harbor without any trouble, I do not imagine that the disease present was bubonic plague. I know of no other case in which there was the slightest cause for suspicion.

This fact speaks well for the disinfection work done in this harbor by the Brazilian authorities, as well as for the work done at Ilha Grande, although in this latter case I must confess that the disinfection of the steamship *Tennyson* at this station which I witnessed in the month of March last was not in any sense a thorough disinfection of the ship or of the dunnage of its crew.

Notifications and deaths from bubonic plague in Rio de Janeiro, January 1, 1900, to April 24, 1904.

	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Notifi- cations.	Deaths.	Notifi- cations.	Deaths.	Notifi- cations.	Deaths.	Notifi- cations.	Deaths.	Notifi- cations.	Deaths.
January			13	9	39	36	30	16	54	22
February		1	8	4	11	2	11	7	30	10
March		2		1	3		9	6	24	3
April					3	1	5	3	α 15	α 5
May.....	51	15			2		12	5		
June.....	137	78			1		13	5		
July.....	129	76	27	9	8		21	7		
August.....	88	50	20	14	24	7	64	23		
September	27	19	82	24	67	33	111	50		
October	32	21	91	61	114	51	207	87		
November	26	21	89	47	92	43	210	99		
December.....	23	12	54	30	97	42	99	52		
Total.....	513	295	384	199	461	215	792	360	123	40

α To April 24, 1904.

Totals by months for the whole period.

	Notifica- tions.	Deaths.
January.....	136	83
February.....	60	24
March.....	36	10
April.....	23	11
May.....	65	20
June.....	151	83
July.....	185	92
August.....	196	94
September.....	287	126
October.....	444	220
November.....	417	210
December.....	273	136
Total.....	2,273	1,109

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Report from Belize, fruit port.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Carson reports as follows: Week ended May 12, 1904: Present officially estimated population, 8,500; number of deaths, 7; prevailing diseases, malarial fever and phthisis pulmonalis; general sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, fairly good.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage.
May 6	Olympia (Br.).....	41	2	29	4
12	Spero (Nor.).....	14	0	0	0

CANADA.

Inspection of immigrants at St. John, New Brunswick.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stevenson reports as follows: Week ended May 14, 1904: Number of immigrants inspected, 312; number passed, 312; none detained.

Inspection of immigrants at Vancouver, British Columbia.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Riggs reports as follows: Month of April, 1904: Number of immigrants inspected, 18; number passed, 18; none rejected.

CHILE.

Report from Antofagasta—Epidemic of suspect plague.

Consul C. C. Greene reports, April 13, as follows:

For some time past an epidemic disease has given the board of health uneasiness, as it had some characteristics of plague. They reported it, on April 6, plague, but there was a difference of opinion and the port